

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294 (323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN June 1, 2007

TO:

EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM:

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

NEW CITY OF ROSEMEAD ORDINANCE

In follow up to my memo to you dated May 15, 2007, regarding construction of buildings under high-voltage transmission lines, I wish to advise you of an unusual development which took place this week during the City of Rosemead's Council meeting.

This past Tuesday evening, the City Council voted 4-1 to adopt an ordinance that gives power to the City Manager to override the County Fire Chief and the Fire Code. A second reading is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007, which we plan to attend and formally request a delay in its adoption.

Currently, the City has slated two projects for construction underneath high-voltage lines and has contracted with a private engineering firm to conduct the plan check approval process for these projects. We believe that the passage of this ordinance may be related to Fire Code Regulation 27, which prohibits this type of construction.

Rosemead's decision prompted us to seek advice of County Counsel to evaluate what legal recourse we may have to assure the integrity of the Fire Code now and in the future. We will keep you apprised of this issue as it develops.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please call me at (323) 881-2401.

PMF:kh

C:

David E. Janssen Vicky Santana Randi Tahara Joseph Charney Rick Velasquez Sussy Nemer

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